

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 471

By Hodges

A RESOLUTION to recognize First Sergeant (Retired) Larry Lepkowski on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant (Retired) Larry Lepkowski is one such estimable educator who, having distinguished himself as an exemplary teacher, will soon enter into a well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski honorably served his country as a member of the United States Army for more than twenty years until his retirement in 1996; he then joined the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (CMCSS), where he has served with acumen and alacrity for twenty-four years, instructing and positively influencing students from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant (Retired) Larry Lepkowski served as an Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Instructor at Northwest High School and then Clarksville High School (CHS) until 2004, when he transferred to his alma mater, Montgomery Central High School (MCHS); during his tenure with CMCSS, he has been responsible for the training, welfare, and overall mentoring of more than 6,000 cadets, helping them learn valuable leadership and life skills; and

WHEREAS, he led the CHS drill team to the Platoon Regulation National Title and third place in the Color Guard competition at the National High School Drill Team Championships in 1999; the following year, the team won another national title in the Challenge Armed Color Guard Division and placed third in the Platoon Regulation portion; the drill team was also

recognized in additional categories, cementing First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski's legacy as one of the best Drill and Color Guard coaches in Cadet Command; and

WHEREAS, at MCHS, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski has developed a Gold Star-level JROTC program that boasts the coveted title of Honor Unit with Distinction, the highest award a JROTC program can receive, and is recognized by Cadet Command as one of the top programs in the nation; the Chief's Guard drill team earned its first overall national title in the Challenge Armed Division and was the national runner-up the following year. During his tenure at MCHS, the Drill Team has won more than twenty-five brigade and national level competitions and placed as first runner-up in an additional eleven competitions; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski and the MCHS JROTC have logged more than 10,000 volunteer hours within the community; they have distributed food and supplies to more than 3,500 families over the last fifteen years and maintained and cleaned the historic Mount Olive Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his teaching duties, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski has served as an assistant varsity football coach for twenty years, and in 2018, he helped the team reach the second round of State playoffs while securing the most wins by a football team in school history; he has also coached Little League Baseball and served as vice president of the league, thereby helping more than 4,000 children pursue athletics and learn resilience and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, an organized professional who has always set high expectations for his students, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski has truly served as an inspiration to his colleagues and his students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and awards, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski was selected as Cadet Command Army Instructor of the Year for the 2006-2007 school year; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, First Sergeant (Retired) Lepkowski has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his community at large; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant (Retired) Larry Lepkowski truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized for his manifold achievements on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor First Sergeant (Retired) Larry Lepkowski, thanking him for his exemplary service as a member of the United States Army, commending his exceptional service to the students of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System, saluting his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.